

CLAIMS

1. A hearing aid comprising, a housing and means for controlling an operation mode of the hearing aid, characterised in that said controlling means are adapted to be responsive
5 to a force applied to a part of an auricle of an ear of a hearing aid user.
2. A hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the housing is adapted to be placed at a position behind the ear, and wherein the controlling means comprise sensing means positioned on at least one side of the housing facing the head or facing the ear lobe of the
10 user, the sensing means being adapted to sense a force applied to the user's auricle, and the controlling means being responsive to the sensing of the sensing means.
3. A hearing aid according to claim 1, wherein the housing is adapted to be placed within an ear canal of the ear.
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4. A hearing aid according to claim 3, wherein the controlling means comprise a stiff lever having two ends, one of which is attached to a face part of the housing, the lever being adapted to be deflected by application of the force to the auricle, such as to a tragus, of the ear, and the controlling means being responsive to the deflection of the lever.
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5. A hearing aid according to claim 4, wherein the lever is adapted to also be used by the user to remove the hearing aid from the ear canal.
6. A hearing aid according to claim 5, wherein the lever further comprises engaging
25 means adapted to facilitate engagement with the hearing aid during removal.
7. A hearing aid according to claim 6, wherein the engaging means comprises a loop-shaped or hook-shaped part.
- 30 8. A hearing aid according to any of claims 4-7, wherein the controlling means comprises switching means adapted to control the operation mode of the hearing aid, the switching means being responsive to the deflection of the stiff lever.
9. A hearing aid according to claim 8, wherein the switching means comprises a
35 momentary switch.

10. A hearing aid according to claim 8, wherein the switching means comprises an on/off switch.

5 11. A hearing aid according to any of claims 4-10, wherein the stiffness of the lever is large enough to convey at least a pressure force of 5,0 Newton to the switch element.

12. A hearing aid according to claim 11, wherein the pressure force is applied perpendicular to the length axis of the lever.

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13. A hearing aid according to claims 9-12, wherein said switching means are adapted to switch an electrical signal between two predetermined levels, the controlling means being adapted to control the operation mode in response to a change in the electrical signal level provided by the switching means.

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14. A hearing aid according to any of claims 1-13, wherein the controlling means are adapted to control a power on/off operation mode of the hearing aid.

15. A hearing aid according to any of claims 1-13, wherein the controlling means are adapted to select a particular pre-set listening program between a number of pre-set listening programs in the hearing aid.

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16. A hearing aid according to any of claims 1-13, wherein the controlling means are adapted to control a telecoil/microphone operation mode of the hearing aid.

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17. A hearing aid according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the controlling means further comprises an integrated circuit.

18. A hearing aid adapted to be positioned within an ear canal of an ear of a user, the hearing aid comprising means for manually removing the hearing aid from the canal, the removing means being fastened to the hearing aid and extending from the hearing aid toward an auricle of the ear, characterised in that the removing means comprise a stiff member adapted to remain in essentially the same predetermined position at least during normal deflection of said stiff member. ~~movements of the user.~~

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